

**** VERSION SHOWING CHANGES MADE ****

[00013] Another known compression device for a mammography system is disclosed in U.S. Patent 5,851,180 to Crosby et al., December 22, 1998. This patent discloses an apparatus having first and second compression surfaces that experience a lateral translation as they move towards one another. In addition, the first and second compression surfaces may be tilted slightly relative to a plane orthogonal to the patient's chest wall to enhance the traction effect on the breast.

[00028] Figure 2 shows a top view of the paddle 12. The paddle 12 is connected to frame 14. Referring back to Figure 1, the frame 14 is also vertically adjustable relative to guide 24 to selectively adjust the vertical position of the paddle 12 relative to the support plate 16. This way a breast ~~34~~ 36 as shown in Figure 3 may be compressed intermediate the paddle 12 and the support plate 16.

[00032] As can be seen, the second compression surface **28** is angled at about a 4° down angle relative to a perpendicular through lip **32**. The third contact compression surface is at about 6° downward angle relative to the perpendicular taken through the lip **32**. Slots **21,23** in the paddle **12** allow for linear horizontal movement of the paddle **12** relative to frame **14**. This provides for optimal alignment of the paddle **12** relative to the image detector and breast support plate **16** with a properly located compressed breast, intermediate the two. In the preferred embodiment, about 3/8 inch linear adjustment is provided through the use of slots **212,23** relative to pins **18,20**.

[00036] Figure 3 shows the preferred embodiment of the compression system **10** in operation. The slight downward angle of the first compression surface **26** is believed to adequately compress the breast **34** **36** at the chest end **34** **38** of the breast **34** **36** without any significant backward displacement of breast tissue. This slight angle is relative to a horizontal plane extending through first compression surface **26**.